

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A lumber trimmer comprising a low profile housing having at least one pair of clam shell doors wherein said housing contains an array of drop saws which may be accessed for maintenance from the top of the housing by the opening of said clam shell doors.  
5
2. The trimmer of claim 1 wherein said clam shell doors open oppositely so as to pivot about opposite perimeter edges of the top of said housing.  
10
3. The trimmer of claim 1 wherein said housing defines an upper compartment which may be closed by closing said clam shell doors.
4. The trimmer of claim 3 wherein said upper compartment is bisected by a beam in the form of generally an I-beam, wherein said beam runs parallel to said perimeter edges about which said clam shell doors pivot.  
15
5. The trimmer of claim 4 wherein vertical webbing of said beam is apertured, and wherein upper flanges of said beam mate with distal ends of said clam shell doors when said doors are closed.  
20
6. The trimmer of claim 3 wherein said compartment has a floor which provides a walkway for maintenance personnel.
- 25 7. The trimmer of claim 6 wherein at least one of said clam shell doors is sheeted and shaped, so that when fully open, a second walkway is provided along the length of the housing.

8. The trimmer of claim 3 wherein said array of drop saws are mounted in and along a first half of said compartment, on one side of said beam, and wherein said drop saws are rotatably mounted on saw ladders which themselves are pivotally mounted to a beam web of said beam,
- 5
9. The trimmer of claim 8 wherein saw drive motors and saw ladder actuators are mounted on an opposite side of said beam web, in a second half of said compartment.
10. The trimmer of claim 9 wherein said actuators are cylinders which stroke through apertures in said beam web so as to drive one end of said saw ladders, said drop saws mounted at the opposite ends of said saw ladders.
- 10
11. The trimmer of claim 1 wherein said drop saws are each driven by a pair of drive belts, where a first drive belt extends between a saw hub of each said drop saw and a pivoting hub of said saw ladder, and wherein a second drive belt extends from said pivoting hub of said saw ladder to a drive shaft of a corresponding single drive motor of said drive motors.
- 15
12. The trimmer of claim 11 wherein said single drive motor drives a pair of said second drive belts, where each of said pair of second drive belts drive oppositely disposed shafts extending through said pivoting hubs of said saw ladders so as to thereby drive a pair of said first drive belts, each of said first drive belts driving one of a pair of opposed facing drop saw blades.
- 20
13. The trimmer of claim 12 wherein said pair of first drive belts are most outwardly disposed on either side of said pair of opposed facing drop saw blades.
- 25
14. The trimmer of claim 13 wherein said pivoting hubs include eccentric surfaces on saw ladder pivot tubes, said saw ladders releasably rigidly mounted to said pivot tubes.

15. The trimmer of claim 14 further comprising pivot housings mounted to said beam web, said pivot tubes rotatably mounted within said pivot housings, wherein releasing said rigid mounting of said saw ladders to said pivot tubes allows rotation of said eccentric surfaces so as to thereby tension or detension said first drive belts.

16. The trimmer of claim 15 wherein said first and second drive belts rotate about a common shaft which is co-axial with axis of rotation of said saw ladders.

17. The trimmer of claim 16 wherein said pivot housings are releasably mountable to said beam web into a mating channel, so that the position of said pivot housings may be adjusted relative to the length of said beam and secured thereto once desired spacing has been achieved.